

E.S.I. Scheme

4024. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance scheme is implemented by the Union and the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of machinery which ensures coordination between the two agencies;

(c) whether this machinery so far identified the problem in implementation of the scheme and made suggestions to improve the working of the scheme to the satisfaction of the workers and the panel doctors;

(d) if so, the salient features of these recommendations made during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) The notification regarding the area in which the ESI Scheme is to be implemented is issued by the Central Government. Thereafter, the Scheme is administered by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments. Except in the case of Delhi and NOIDA, under the existing arrangement medical care is provided by the concerned State Government. However, the expenditure of medical centre is shared by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments in ratio of 7:1. The functioning of the Scheme is reviewed by the ESI Corporation, its general purpose committee and the regional boards which are tripartite bodies consisting of representative of Government, employers and employees. The cash benefits to insured persons are administered by the ESI Corporation through its regional/local offices. There have been sporadic complaint about shortage of doctors, medicines, equipments, etc. in the hospitals/dispensaries. Such complaints are forwarded to State Government for taking remedial action. There have been no serious complaints with regard to administration of cash benefits.

Seminar at Garden Reach Rail Institute

4025. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Seminar was held at Garden Reach Rail Institute on January 19, 1997 on "Safety and Technical Progress" organised by Diploma Engineer Association of Railwaymen (DEAR);

(b) if so, the details of the said seminar;

(c) whether the Government have taken note of those suggestions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No such Seminar was conducted. However, it is understood that Diploma Engineers Association of Railways (DEAR) held their Annual General Meeting at Garden Reach Railway Institute on January 19, 1997.

(b) In this Annual General Meeting the Association is reported to have deliberated on the utility of quality circles in railway services and other matters pertaining to safety in Railways in general.

(c) Letter addressed to G.M./S.E Railway by the Association does not contain any concrete suggestion

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Railway Link with Kandi

4026. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a survey was conducted to connect Kandi in Murshidabad district of West Bengal with railway line;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to update the said survey for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not connecting an important place of West Bengal with rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir, a survey was conducted in 1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The survey revealed that the line would have negative return. In view of the constraint of resources this line could not be taken up.

Opening of New Institute of Tourism and Travel Management

4027. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to open new Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?